



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 19, 2008

MEMO

To: Superintendents, Principals and Child Nutrition Sponsors

From: Idaho State Department of Education

RE: Notification on USDA recall of Hallmark/Westland beef

Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co., based in Chino, Calif., is voluntarily recalling approximately 143,383,823 pounds of raw and frozen beef products that USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has determined to be unfit for human food because the cattle did not receive complete and proper inspection. Through evidence obtained by FSIS, the establishment did not consistently contact the FSIS public health veterinarian in situations in which cattle became non-ambulatory after passing ante-mortem inspection, which is not compliant with FSIS regulations. (See attached Recall Release from FSIS.) The following information details the procedures school districts must take to destroy the beef from Hallmark/Westland.

IDAHO RECALL PROCEDURE

The following procedures must be completed within the next thirty days. In Idaho, all USDA commodity sponsors must follow the below guidelines to ensure the proper procedure is handled in this RECALL. This includes Hallmark/Westland commodity fine ground beef (A608) and King's Command Beef Patties and Beef Crumbles.

All products that were put on HOLD last week must now be disposed of using the process below.

This RECALL includes commodity raw, fine ground beef (A608) from Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co. and King's Command beef patties and beef crumbles made with ground beef from Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co. All products subject to recall bear the establishment number "EST. 336" inside the USDA mark of inspection.

For the **King's Command beef patties and beef crumbles**, check the cases for the following packing dates and separate them from the rest of the King's Command products:

Patties:

7/31/2007
8/15/2007
8/28/2007
8/29/2007
9/12/2007
9/13/2007
9/26/2007
10/2/2007
10/3/2007

Crumbles:

7/5/2007
7/26/2007
10/2/2007



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These are the cases of product that are being recalled and must be destroyed.

The **commodity fine ground beef (A608)** being recalled is:

USDA A608 fine ground beef from Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co. Cases will list the establishment number "EST. 336" inside the USDA mark of inspection.

All cases of this product are recalled and must be destroyed.

All Hallmark/Westland products, including further processed products containing any amount of Hallmark/Westland meat must be destroyed and cannot be used or reconditioned for human consumption.

Do not return product to the processor, distributor or State Agency.

How to dispose of 50 or fewer cases of recalled products:

You are authorized immediately to destroy on-site 50 or fewer cases of USDA-purchased Hallmark/Westland fine grind ground beef. These products must be rendered unfit for human consumption, according to destruction guidance from your State or local health authority. *Please see attached guidance from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare for more information.*

- Destruction must be witnessed by a person of authority, (such as a food service director) and one other person.
- Each witness must sign the destruction verification form.
- The type of product, quantity, and destruction method must be noted on the form.
- **"Recall Form to Fill Out for Destruction"** is included.

How to dispose of more than 50 cases:

More than 50 cases (but less than a truckload) of product must be taken to a landfill, incinerated, or sent for inedible rendering. *Please see attached guidance from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare for more information.*

- Destruction of these larger quantities must be witnessed by a representative of the local health department and an official from the landfill, incineration plant, or rendering plant.
- The destruction verification form must be signed by these two witnesses.
- The type of product, quantity, and destruction method must be noted on the form.
- **"Recall Form to Fill Out for Destruction"** is included

How to dispose of truckload quantities:

Very large quantities (truckload) held at cold storage facilities, warehouses, or further processors will require special arrangements with landfills or other disposal sites, incinerators, or rendering facilities. In the case of these very large quantities, State Distributing Agencies will need to coordinate with State or Federal officials (FSIS or AMS) to receive certification that the product was destroyed and cannot be consumed. *Please see attached guidance from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare for more information.*

The distributor's school or State customers are responsible for verifying product destruction along with the distributor.



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The destruction document should at a minimum include: Product name and code and the number of cases destroyed. Use the enclosed "Recall Form to Fill Out for Destruction" to document the disposal of the recalled beef products.

INFORMATION ON REIMBURSABLE COSTS

All approved costs should be invoiced to the appropriate school or state agency.

Reimbursable Expenses are:

- Transportation to destruction site
- Storage (for up to 1 month)
- Destruction
- Processing/Fee for service cost

All reimbursable expenses MUST have accompanying receipts.

- Receipts must be sent to the Idaho State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs for reimbursement. Note: only approved reimbursable expenses will be refunded with accompanying receipts. Please send the receipts to:

Dennis McNees
Idaho State Department of Education
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027

If you have questions, please contact Dennis McNees at (208) 332-6820 or DWMcnees@sde.idaho.gov.

Non-reimbursable Expenses

The following are examples of, but not limited to, non-reimbursable expenses:

- Storage at school level
- Overtime compensation for employees
- Long-distance phone calls and other associated administrative expenses
- Reimbursement for commercially-purchased food used in place of the recalled product

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will this beef be replaced by the USDA or does the state have to buy all new beef?

- The Idaho State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs is waiting for additional information.
- USDA will pursue every avenue available to provide replacement raw commodity.

What is the financial impact to schools?

- Allowable and Non-allowable costs are listed above. The final financial impact to schools and the state agency has not yet been determined. We are waiting for more information from USDA at this time.

How many school districts were affected by this?

Office Location
650 West State Street

Telephone
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired
1-800-377-3529

Fax
208-334-2228



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- We have had 110 sponsors respond out of approximately 150.
- At present, we have located 706 cases of Westland Ground Beef.
- We have located 1,253 cases of patties and 276 cases of crumbles from Kings Command.
- The State warehouse has 86 cases of Kings Command patties and 150 cases of crumbles.
- We also have 3,920 cases of Westland ground beef in the state warehouse.

In addition, the Office of the Inspector General and the Food Safety and Inspection Service continue the investigation. We will respond immediately as further information is provided to our office. Details about this recall and USDA actions are available at www.usda.gov/actions.

If you have any questions about media inquiries, please feel free to contact Melissa McGrath MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov. If you have questions about the hold on beef products, please contact Colleen Fillmore, Director of Child Nutrition Programs, at (208) 332-6820 and CRFillmore@sde.idaho.gov.